

May 15, 2005

Freedom

Watch

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan



***B-1 Lancers
quiet enemy
with their
bark and bite***

Pg. 8

Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol



KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan— U.S. Army military working dog Bear keeps the "suspect," Master Sgt. David Albin of the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, in check April 27, while his handler, Army Staff Sgt. Ron Warren, frisks the suspect as part of Bear's training.

Contents



Staff Sgt. Jason Calloway, left, and Airman 1st Class Phillip Faltesek troubleshoot a fuel vent leak on a B-1 Lancer.

See story Page 8
Master Sgt. Sean Brennan

Page 3: Afghan officers complete course

Page 4: Unit receives first trauma victim

Page 5: Arctic Warriors help build road, pull security ►



◀ **Page 6:** Taking the reins of CFC-A

Page 10: Gardez PRT helps open new school

Page 11: Task Force Guardian welcomes commander

Page 12: Korean Children's Day

Page 13: Reconstructing shrine

Page 14: ANA soldier provides spiritual leadership ►



Page 15: Flying Tigers prowl the sky

Freedom Watch

Freedom Watch is the weekly publication of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.

CFC-A Commander - Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry
Public Affairs Officer - Col. James R. Yonts

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Afghan officers complete counter-intelligence course

Story by
Master Sgt. D. Keith
Johnson
OMC-A Public Affairs Office

KABUL, Afghanistan - Officers assigned to the Afghan National Army's new Counter-Intelligence Directorate recently completed a six-month training course designed to teach them the fundamentals of counter-intelligence operations for their country's new army.

Planned and conducted by the Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan, the training was designed to start with the basics. U.S. Army Capt. Jay Iannacito, lead mentor to the ANA's CI Directorate, said the OMC-A trainers had to come up with some fundamentals since a few of the basics that would be considered intuitive for U.S. troops, such as security classification levels, were initially lacking.

Given that the officers of the CI Directorate would quickly require appropriate clearance levels to gain access to classified information, the instruction initially focused on personnel security and security classification levels for information and documents.

The CI Directorate, led by Col. Abdul Ghuyar, has four sub-directorates: Special Operations, CI Analysis, Personnel Security and Foreign Disclosure.

Ghuyar was pleased with the results of the course, calling it "very positive training. It really helped our officers upgrade their professionalism in the intelligence field. It has been very helpful to them."

The classes expanded as the training progressed and the students showed an increased understanding of the course material. Initially starting with a single two-hour session per week, it soon increased to two three-hour sessions.

While counter-intelligence and personnel security may sound exciting and bring to mind images of James Bond movies, Iannacito said their foundation begins with the simple task of learning to conduct intelligence interviews.

Interview techniques integrated into the training included how to conduct walk-in interviews, source interviews, and subject

explained Iannacito.

The ANA's CI Directorate is similar in structure to the U.S. Army's model, but there are a few major differences. While most of ANA CI's sub-directorates fall under

areas."

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tuan Nguyen, the foreign disclosure officer for Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan, assisted in that part of the training.

Presenting a class on cover sheets and document marking, Nguyen's instruction prepared the officers to work with classified documents and to know what cover sheets are required when working with them.

The training was as rewarding for Iannacito as it

was for the ANA officers. "What was fantastic about working with the ANA officers is that the 'light bulb' would come on every day," said Iannacito. "I would explain something and they would get it and put it in place."

More important to Ghuyar was what the knowledge gained throughout the course of instruction meant to the future security of Afghanistan.

"When the professionalism of our officers is increased, they can fulfill the missions that are given to them," said Ghuyar. "The lessons they have learned in this training will help our officers to get information about Al Qaeda and use that information for the destruction of those elements."



Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis

Officers from the Afghan National Army's Counter-Intelligence Directorate practice interview techniques during the CI training course conducted by members of the Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan.



Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis

Officers of the Afghan National Army Counter-Intelligence Directorate stand for a class photo with course instructor U.S. Army Capt. Jay Iannacito, center, following their graduation from training.

interviews.

"It's a little bit different on a background investigation where someone has committed a national security crime than it is for a background investigation when you're just trying to find out if someone is trustworthy and reliable,"

U.S. Army CI, some did not.

That was a challenge, said Iannacito.

"Foreign disclosure and leadership protection are not part of CI in the U.S. Army," he said. "We had to go to outside sources to get the support we were lacking in those



Unit receives first trauma victim during deployment

Story and photo by
Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

FOB RIPLEY, Afghanistan - Rushing across Forward Operating Base Ripley in an ambulance, medics from C Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne), were able to reach the helipad just as the aircraft was landing April 20.

The incident was the first trauma response for the 173rd personnel, who were just days on the ground.

"We were on the other side of the FOB when we got the call," said Spc. Derena McCray, a medic with C

Co. "We were told, 'You've got some guy coming in.' We only had a couple minutes to get there."

The medics arrived to find an Afghan Security Forces member who had been shot in the thigh.

"He seemed pretty stable when we got him," said McCray.

After the medics transported the victim to the aid station, Dr. (Lt. Col.) Robert Craig's 2nd Forward Surgical Team and some physician assistants began to treat the casualty.

The casualty lost little blood and was treated and released.

"You could tell they were excited

Capt. Jonathan Monti, left, a physician's assistant, and Dr. (Lt. Col.) Robert Craig, right, treat the 173rd Support Battalion's first trauma, a gunshot wound, April 20 at Forward Operating Base Ripley.

to be taking care of the guy and they showed a lot of interest," Craig said of the 173rd medical group. "They took the proper steps and you could see that their training took over."

The primary function of the 173rd personnel is to treat FOB personnel and provide life support to victims in need of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The medics are eager to gain more experience by treating casualties, but it's not certain that they'll have the opportunity, Craig said.

"We are very excited to get them into the operating room and do some cross training," Craig said.

Weapons Rack

Sgt. Matthew MacRberts
20th Public Affairs Detachment

Weapon maintenance is not just about cleaning a rifle, pistol or other firearm before a mission or when it is dirty. The job is designed to keep the weapon functioning reliably so that you can close with and kill the enemy.

This task goes beyond simply putting a patch down the barrel, cleaning the receiver and lubricating the appropriate parts. It also includes rotating and cleaning ammunition, disassembling magazines and checking for proper spring tensions, and checking other issued parts or components used with the weapon.

If you don't take the time to make it work, it is not going to work.

Arctic Warriors help build road, pull security

Story by

Sgt. Douglas DeMaio

20th Public Affairs Detachment

FOB RIPLEY, Afghanistan - Soldiers from C Company, 864th Engineer Battalion, Fort Richardson, Alaska, are hauling dirt and pulling security in an effort to help shorten the driving distance from Tarin Kowt to Kandahar, bringing more access to the remote location.

The Kandahar-Tarin Kowt road is expected to make its way through difficult terrain rather than taking the path of least resistance.

The old road travels back and forth through ravines and around hills and ridges.

"The road that was there was not much of a road," said Pfc. Allan Knavel of C Co.

The new route will provide multiple uses for both military and civilian. From being used as a military supply route to bringing trade and industry to Tarin Kowt, the road makes a significant contribution to the region.

A shorter, more direct route

to Tarin Kowt will establish closer connections for civilians and military personnel.

"There is an importance for this road," said Spc. Tim McWhinney. "From here to Kandahar, it should cut the distance probably about a third from place to place. We will be able to convoy there more easily, so it will help us and the nationals."



Spc. Robert Davis

Bulldozers cut into the terrain to bring a road surface to the proper elevation. When finished the road will connect Kandahar to Tarin Kowt.

Part of the road that is already built was recently opened to civilians.

"Ever since then, there have been more smiles," said Sgt. Raymond Frausto of C Co., one of the Soldiers who haul dirt. "You can tell they appreciate it more because most of the little kids push wheelbarrows and had to go up the bad terrain. Now they have a good road to use, so you can tell it is helping the people."

The engineers, who belong to the company's vertical platoon, pull security for members of the 926th Engineer Battalion, whose primary mission is extending the KTK road southward.

Security for the project is crucial, Frausto said.

"If we don't have enough vehicles to provide security, no one can go out to work on the road and the project suffers," said Frausto.

Such setbacks are a rarity thanks to the maintenance crews keeping the project up and running.

"We have a really good maintenance team," said Frausto. "They will work a 24-hour shift just to get it done, so we can go out on the road the next day. They really put in the work."

The project is scheduled to be completed this winter.

Enduring Voices

What has surprised you the most about Afghanistan?



Cpl. Christopher Szczepanski

Polish Army

"The mountains surrounding Bagram Airfield took me by surprise. I never expected to be fighting in such a beautiful country."



Spc. Sean Godinez

Task Force 168t

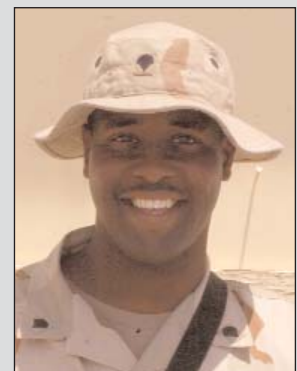
"I was most surprised with the amount of poverty in the country. The people in Afghanistan are the most impoverished people I have seen in my military career."



Air Force Staff Sgt. Sherry Holmes

1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group

"It rains here more than I was expecting it to."



Spc. Chad Screen

B Company, 173rd Support Battalion

"I wasn't expecting the living arrangements to be this established and nice."

Taking the reins of CFC-A

Story by
Pfc. Vincent C. Fusco
20th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP EGGERS, Afghanistan - Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry assumed of command of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan from Lt. Gen. David W. Barno during a change of command ceremony as a steady rain fell here May 3.

"Rain is good luck," said Gen. John P. Abizaid, the

commander of U.S. Central Command, referring to an earlier statement made by Afghan President Hamid Karzai at a breakfast meeting with the generals. The wet weather is also welcome in a country suffering from more than six years of drought.

Abizaid conducted the passing of the colors. Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett led a formation representing Combined Joint Task Force-76, the Office of

Military Cooperation-Afghanistan, Task Force Phoenix, and Combined allies.

Barno, an Endicott, N.Y., native, leaves Afghanistan to serve as the U.S. Army's deputy chief of staff for installation management. At the ceremony, he was presented with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Meritorious Service Medal. He also received an antique rifle from the Afghan Minister of Defense, Abdurahim Wardak.

"General Barno has achieved great victories in the war against terrorism," said Wardak. Barno has worked since assuming command in November 2003 to develop the Afghan National Army and reconstruct Afghanistan.

Eikenberry served for a year as the U.S. security coordinator and chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in Kabul, working to set up the ANA before leaving the country in September 2003.

"It's a real honor and privilege to come back to Afghanistan," said Eikenberry.

In his speech, Eikenberry gave thanks to the service members of the United States and Coalition forces, and pledged to continue CFC-A's mission.

"I give a pledge to this command to follow in General Barno's footsteps," said Eikenberry. "We will continue to work together, build security forces and support the rebuilding of Afghanistan."

As Barno did for the Afghan presidential

election, Eikenberry will work with the Afghan government to support the upcoming parliamentary elections.

"Our mission will continue in the same direction ... working with the United Nations, Coalition forces, and most importantly, the Afghan government," said Eikenberry.

CFC-A is comprised of more than 18,000 troops: 16,700 U.S. service members and 1,600 personnel from 22 allied nations who conduct full-spectrum operations, from combat to humanitarian activities, to defeat terrorism and establish enduring security in the country.

"We will continue to prosecute the war against terror in partnership with the Islamic government of Afghanistan and be relentless as we move forward," said Eikenberry. "So much has been accomplished, and so much has to be done."

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Eikenberry has master's degrees from Harvard University in East Asian studies and Stanford University in political science. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Ranger Tab, Combat and Expert Infantryman badges, and Master Parachutist Wings. He has also received the Department of State Superior Honor Award and Afghanistan's Akbar Khan Award presented by President Karzai.

Eikenberry's last assignment was duty as the director for strategic planning and policy for U.S. Pacific Command. He has published numerous articles on U.S. military training, tactics and strategy.



Sgt. Phillip Chang

Lt. Gen. David W. Barno, outgoing commander of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, prepares to address the audience during the change of command ceremony.



Sgt. Phillip Chang

Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, - addresses the audience during the change of command ceremony for Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan.



Sgt. Phillip Chang

Lt. Gen Karl W. Eikenberry gives his welcome speech to the audience while a steady rain falls during the change of command ceremony.



Sgt. Phillip Chang

Abizaid hands the colors of CFC-A to Eikenberry at the beginning of the change of command ceremony.



Sgt. Phillip Chang

"I give a pledge to this command to follow in General Barno's footsteps. We will continue to work together, build security forces and support the rebuilding of Afghanistan."

Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry

Soldiers representing units in Afghanistan listen to Abizaid give his speech during the change of command ceremony for Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan.

B-1s carry sound and fury over Afghanistan

Story by

Lt. Edward T. Rivera

9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

CENTCOM AOR - Pinned down and ambushed, U.S. ground forces broke contact from anti-Coalition militia south of Bagram last month, with the aid of a B-1 bomber from the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron.

This was not the first time B-1s have showcased their lethal flexibility in the skies of Afghanistan. Since December 2004, B-1 aircrews from the 9th EBS have employed the jet in a variety of ways to support ground forces assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-76. While the primary mission is to put bombs on target, the B-1 has also used non-lethal means to ensure victory in Afghanistan.

In the past five months, B-1s have dropped 16,000 pounds of ordnance while flying combat air support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom. The B-1s are also impressive when not dropping bombs. In the same five month period, B-

1 aircrews have flown low altitude, high speed passes over enemy positions directly supporting joint terminal air controllers engaged with ACM more than two dozen times.

"Our primary task is to put iron on target, but whatever the guys on the ground need to get the job done, we will provide," said 1st Lt. Michael Jungquist, B-1 weapons system officer.

Jungquist was one of the first members of the 9th EBS to employ weapons supporting Coalition forces in December.

"Sometimes it takes a while to see all the effects of a bomb," said Jungquist. "But when you fly just over the enemy's head and make a lot of noise, you instantly see them running."

B-1s came through again in February, south of Bagram.

U.S. forces were receiving fire from ACMs from an unidentified position. Since the JTAC and the B-1 aircrew could not determine the enemy's exact position for weapon delivery, they coordinated for the next best thing. The B-1 performed a low altitude

pass above the friendly ground position at more than 560 knots. Immediately following the high-speed pass, the enemy ceased firing on the U.S. ground forces.

Following the show of force,

the B-1

climbed to high altitude and began using its Ground Moving Target Indicator to track several vehicles moving away from the enemy position. The B-1 crew passed the position information to a Marine quick reaction team who pursued the fleeing vehicles and captured several ACM members.



Airman 1st Class Anthony Ennamorato

Staff Sgt. Kevin Simpson, left, and Senior Airman Wayne Manko, 40th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, sway a bomb to prevent it from rocking after it is locked into the bomb rack.



Airman 1st Class Anthony Ennamorato

Senior Airman Jon Baker, 40th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron B-1 Lancer crew chief, communicates with the pilot during initial start up of the aircraft.

Airman 1st Class Anthony Ennamorato

A B-1 bomber takes off from a forward deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Airman 1st Class Anthony Ennamorato

From left: Senior Airman Alex Speener, Airman 1st Class Billy Doncer, and Senior Airman Casey Davis, 40th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, install an upper spring panel installation.



Staff Sgt. Shelley Gill

A B-1 bomber refuels from a KC-135 during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Gardez PRT helps open new school

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
CTF Thunder Public Affairs

AHMAD ABA, Afghanistan - Afghan students and Coalition members from the Gardex Provincial Reconstruction Team gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Sadet Khail School April 16.

Several hundred people gathered for a grand opening ceremony at the school. In attendance were the new school's headmaster Ahmad Gul Ahmadi, the provincial governor, Coalition leaders and dozens of students.

The new school replaces a cramped, three-room building, which was previously used as a school to teach grades one through six. It is more than twice as big as the old school, and will teach grades one through nine. The school will house about 550 students, said Ahmadi.

"I want to show the people that we are serving as best as we can," Ahmadi said. "I want more people to come here. I encourage the people to send their children to this school, and I'm going to teach them myself."

The Gardez PRT prepared designs for the new school and funded the project with about \$100,000 from the Commander's Emergency Relief Program.

Construction started in September, but was shut down for three months during the winter because of heavy snow. Local laborers did the construction, with the PRT providing oversight.



Hakim Taniwaal, the governor of Paktia Province, cuts the ribbon during the grand opening of the Sadet Khail School April 16 in Ahmad ABA, Afghanistan.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lt. Col. Brendan O'Shea, commander of the Gardez PRT, said he is proud to work as a

partner with the Afghan government in helping to rebuild this country.

"After so many years of warfare, I realize that there are a lot of

projects that need to be done in Afghanistan," he said. "We need roads, and we need hospitals and we need businesses."

"But of all these things, I believe that education is perhaps the most important," O'Shea continued. "Because with education, it will give you

engineers that you need to build roads, it will give you the doctors for your hospitals, it will give you the lawyers to make laws and have good governance."

O'Shea said the school was

the children well, teach them about peace and teach them that knowledge brings prosperity."

Cheek told the students in attendance that they are the future of Afghanistan and advised them to study hard and listen to their teachers and parents.

"Your job is to give your children an even better Afghanistan than the one that's here today," he said.

Cheek then asked the villagers to let the word go out from the village that it's time to quit fighting, and it's time for everyone to come in and join the future of Afghanistan.

With an ear-to-ear grin, Ahmadi said he was very grateful to the PRT and the other people who worked hard to help build the school.

"I hope a lot of children and new people will come to this new school and they will really like it," he said.

one of his personal favorite projects to watch develop, and since it is close to the PRT compound, the team could see

the work from start to finish. O'Shea encouraged people in attendance at the ceremony to have their children attend the new school.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Col. Gary Cheek, commander of Combined Task Force Thunder, urged the village elders to protect the new school and send their children to it, both boys and girls.

"Remember that it's only a building; it takes students and teachers in order to make it a school," he said. "To the teachers, I tell you that you hold the future of Afghanistan in your hands. Teach



A group of Afghan girls sing the Afghanistan national anthem during the grand opening of the Sadet Khail School.

"I stand here in awe of the Soldiers represented by today's formation." Task force welcomes commander

Story and photo by
Spc. Jason Krawczyk
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Task Force Guardian, welcomed a new commander May 2 at Bagram Airfield.

Col. Katherine Miller replaced Col. George Millan as commander of Task Force Guardian, the command of all military police in Afghanistan, and Bagram Airfield Provost Marshal.

"Guardian's success in this volatile operating environment is a tribute to not only the great leadership of Colonel Millan and the commanders and staff under his control, but to each and every Soldier in the task force," said Miller.

Miller is a native of Nevada. She has a bachelor of arts in criminal justice from St. Leo's College in Florida, and a master's degree in public administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Miller began her career in the military as an enlisted Soldier in the Woman's Army Corps. There she achieved the rank of staff sergeant before receiving her commission from the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School.

Miller has served in the South American and European theaters. Her duties have included military police,

criminal investigator, MP combat support platoon leader and installation provost marshal. Her commands

include law enforcement, recruiting and confinement companies.

Miller's deployments include; Bosnia with the first wave of U.S. Forces and Kosovo as the battalion commander of a combined active Army, Reserve, and National Guard force supporting Russian, Greek and Polish forces.

She also worked in the Pentagon as an organization integrator, recommending MP force structure changes to senior Army leaders, and as the director of the Army Programs Directorate Initiatives Groups.

Miller is an active member of the International Association of the Police Chiefs, the American Society for Industrial Security, the American Correctional Association and the Association of the United States Army.

After leaving Task Force Guardian, Millan will go to the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, P.

"This has been the most rewarding assignment of my service. I am very proud to have been a member of Task Force Guardian. I stand here in awe of the Soldiers represented by today's formation," said Millan. "I want to wish Miller the best during her tour as Guardian 6."



Brig. Gen. John Sterling hands the colors to Col. Katherine Miller to symbolize the passing of responsibility for Task Force Guardian to her.

Religious Services Around the CJOA

Camp Eggers

Sunday

0630 - Christian Worship Service
1030 - Christian Worship Service (U.S. Embassy Marine Lounge)
1430 - Christian Worship Service
1530 - Small Group Study 301
1600 - Small Group Study 201

Tuesday

1430 - Small Group Study 401

Friday

0830 - Latter-Day Saints
1330 - Small Group Study 101
1430 - Coffee House Ministry

Saturday

1130 - Catholic Mass

Camp Phoenix

Sunday

0430 - Catholic (Italian)
0530 - Non-Denominational Prot.
1330 - Catholic (French)
1530 - Non-Denominational Prot.

Tuesday

1430 - Bible Study

Wednesday

1430 - Gospel Bible Study

Saturday

1430 - Gospel Worship Service

FOB Salerno

Sunday

0300 - Foundations Bible Class
0400 - Traditional Prot. Worship
0530 - Catholic Mass
0730 - Latter-Day Saints
0830 - Gospel Service
1400 - Inspirational Movie Night

Saturday

1500 - Contemporary Prot.

Bagram Airfield

Sunday

0400 - Liturgical Prot.
0530 - Roman Catholic Mass
0830 - Latter-Day Saints
0700 - Traditional Prot.
1115 - Korean Language Prot.
1300 - Gospel Service

Monday

1400 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

1400 - Gospel Bible Study
1545 - Prot. Music Rehearsal

Wednesday

1600 - Catholic Music Rehearsal

Thursday

1430 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Friday

1430 - Jewish Prayer
1500 - Women's Bible Study

Saturday

0500 - Seventh-Day Adventist
1330 - Korean Choir Rehearsal
1515 - Roman Catholic Mass
1630 - Prot. Choir Rehearsal
Daily, Monday-Friday
0700 - Roman Catholic Mass
0745 - Noon-Day prayer

Kandahar Airfield

Sunday

0330 - Protestant Service
0500 - Catholic Mass
0600 - Protestant Service (SF Comp. Chapel)
0600 - Orthodox Service (Romanian Orth. Chapel)
0630 - Protestant Service
0830 - Latter Day Saint Services
1430 - Gospel Service

Monday - Friday

0700 - Catholic Mass (When Available)

Wednesday

1530 - Protestant Mid-Week Service

Friday

1430 - Jewish Sabbath Service
1530 - Egyptian Coptic Christian Service

Saturday

1330 - Protestant Service
1530 - Catholic Mass

*** All times
Zulu/GMT**

Spc. Harold Fields



Republic of Korea military shares Children's and Parent's Day ceremony with Afghan families



Pfc. COra Gerth

Korean Maj. Baek Chul-Ho, of the Korean Engineer Unit, puts a backpack on an Afghan girl at the Korean Hospital during the Children's and Parent's Day celebration.



Pfc. Vincent Fusco

An Afghan man receives a gift bag donated by Republic of Korea forces during the Korean Children's and Parent's Day ceremony May 5. The ceremony was held for the Afghan families at the Korean Hospital at Bagram Airfield.



Spc. Harold Fields

(Left) A Marine from the Republic of Korea entertains the Afghan children with traditional music.

(Top and bottom of page) Marines from the Republic of Korea perform martial arts for Afghanistan children during the celebration.

Spc. Harold Fields



Reconstructing shrine, constructing relationship

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
CTF Force Thunder Public Affairs

F A Q U I R A N A, Afghanistan - Considered the second holiest site in Khowst Province, the Faquirana shrine is the destination for Muslims who believe it has healing powers.

At more than 80 years old, the shrine was badly in need of repairs. The Khowst Provincial Reconstruction Team gave the village \$7,200 to help restore the shrine and a neighboring mosque.

When members of the PRT visited the village to check on the progress April 24, they were greeted by Habib Shah, a villager who was at the mosque.

Shah told the PRT members how happy residents were that the shrine and mosque are being repaired. He also dispelled the myth that the people of Afghanistan think that the Coalition is anti-Islam and is

here to destroy their religion.

"The Taliban are all over Afghanistan, but we didn't get anything from them," Shah said through an interpreter. "But the Coalition is a friend of Islam."

to make assessments, said Capt. David Hofman, the Civil Affairs Team-A leader with the Khowst PRT.

The last time the PRT visited this village, Hofman said, he was greeted by a

heard some of what the bad guys have said, and they say that we're here to destroy Islam and we're infidels," Hofman said. "He said, 'How can they say you're infidels? How can they say you're here to destroy Islam when you're rebuilding our sacred mosque?'"

Because of the Afghan people's emphasis on religion, Hofman said, the Coalition should help to rebuild as many mosques as possible. While the people may be poor, the one thing they have is religion, he said.

Additionally, Hofman said, mosques are not only a place of worship, they're also a cultural and civic center and the main meeting place for the elders of the village.

"So we're not just doing a church or a mosque, so to speak, we're doing a civic and cultural center and the main meeting place for the entire village," Hofman said.

"We're showing them that the Coalition is indeed a friend of Islam," he added. "We are not here to destroy it. We're here to aid them and their ability to worship and worship in a nice place."



Sun shines off the new paint on the shrine in Faquirana. The Khowst Provincial Reconstruction Team provided \$7,200 to help restore the shrine, which is considered the second holiest site in Khowst Province, and is also a mosque in the village.

The visit was routine for the PRT, which goes out into the surrounding communities nearly every day to check on projects it is funding and

mullah who repeatedly thanked him for the helping restore the mosque and shrine.

"He basically said he's



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

An A-10 Thunderbolt and other aircraft are silhouetted in front of the mountains surrounding Bagram Airfield during a recent sunrise.

*Capt. John Kulig
249th General Hospital*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

ANA soldier provides spiritual leadership; fills void for community, ministers to fellow soldiers

Story and photo by
Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

FOB RIPLEY, Afghanistan - The Afghan National Army's 3rd Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps, has a holy man in its ranks.

Staff Sgt. Mohammad Daud is serving as the men's spiritual leader, their chaplain, their mullah, and as a community leader in the village of Tarin Kowt.

More than a month ago, Tarin Kowt's mullah, Abdel Malik, was assassinated.

This tragedy opened a void that Daud has filled by serving his countrymen as more than just a soldier.

"When I graduated training and became an ANA soldier, I put my hand on the holy Koran and made an oath to serve the Islamic

government of Afghanistan and its people," Daud said.

Daud's message to the Tarin Kowt villagers is simple.

"ANA soldiers will solve your problems," he said. "We tell them how we (ANA and Coalition) want to build schools and mosques for the people."

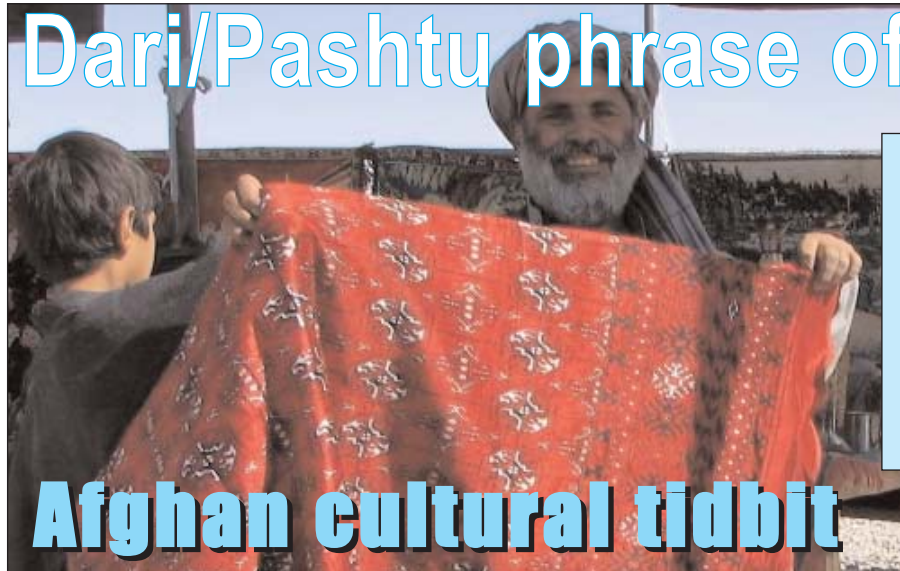
Since the assassination of Malik, Daud has been providing words of comfort and prayer to the villagers during community activities.

"The presence of a mullah, one that is part of what the government is trying to do, is a big addition," said Maj. Kellard Townsend, the embedded training team's logistics advisor to the kandak. "He can talk to locals about things they understand."



Staff Sgt. Mohammad Daud reads from the Koran during an afternoon prayer session. More than a month ago, Tarin Kowt's mullah was assassinated. Daud serves as one of the community's spiritual leaders in the absence of a mullah.

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



You are welcome

Dari

Esme shuma chist

(Ess-may shoo-mah chest)

Pashtu

Tasu num su da

(Tasoo noom suh dah)

Afghan cultural tidbit

In towns, there are traders and tea houses, as well as full-time craft specialists, such as potters, weavers, and shoemakers. However, few such centers exist in Afghanistan, which is still a land of small villages. Only the large cities, and particularly the capital, Kabul, have a modernized economic sector, although a very small number of factories and mining centers exist in other locations.

Flying Tigers prowl the sky over Afghanistan looking for prey

23rd Fighter Group continues legacy

Capt. Catie Hague



Story by
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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The A-10s currently deployed at Bagram Airfield are part of the 23rd Fighter Group, the Flying Tigers, out of Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and are a unique group of aircraft - evident by just one look at their nose art.

The noses of these A-10s are emblazoned with an

image of a shark's teeth and eyes. The Flying Tigers are the only Air Force unit authorized to display nose art on their aircraft, due to the history it symbolizes.

The Flying Tigers were first activated at Langley Field, Va., in 1941, and took over the tasks of the American Volunteer Group, fighting the Japanese military, in China during World War II. Twenty-nine of the original volunteers joined the 23rd, sharing their knowledge and

expertise.

In their first day of combat, the Flying Tigers destroyed five enemy aircraft to help the Chinese fight the Japanese invaders. The original shark's teeth and eyes were designed to scare enemies during battle.

Throughout many inactivations and reactivations at different bases, the Flying Tigers have assisted in missions in China, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kenya, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, Puerto Rico and now, Afghanistan, as the 75th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

The current mission of the Flying Tigers includes: close-air support, forward air control, interdiction and combat search and rescue operations.

"We fly in the close-in battles and put our noses in the fight," said Capt. Ron Oliver, an A-10 pilot with the 75th EFS.

The Flying Tigers enforce high standards that their Airmen must uphold. Newly arriving Airmen to this group

are briefed on the legacy that has been carried on throughout the years. They are trained on the vision, mission and goals to keep the original Flying Tigers' heritage alive.

Col. Warren Henderson, commander of both the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group here and the 23rd FG at Pope, is honored to lead such a historic group.

"When I'm flying, it's a pretty humbling experience to know the legacy we are continuing," said Henderson.

"We're still interacting with some of the original squadron commanders, and it's great to see the pride they continue to have in our organization."

All of the training and preparation the Flying Tigers complete when at their home station readies them to do their part in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Flying Tigers are scheduled to finish their year-long support of OEF in September.

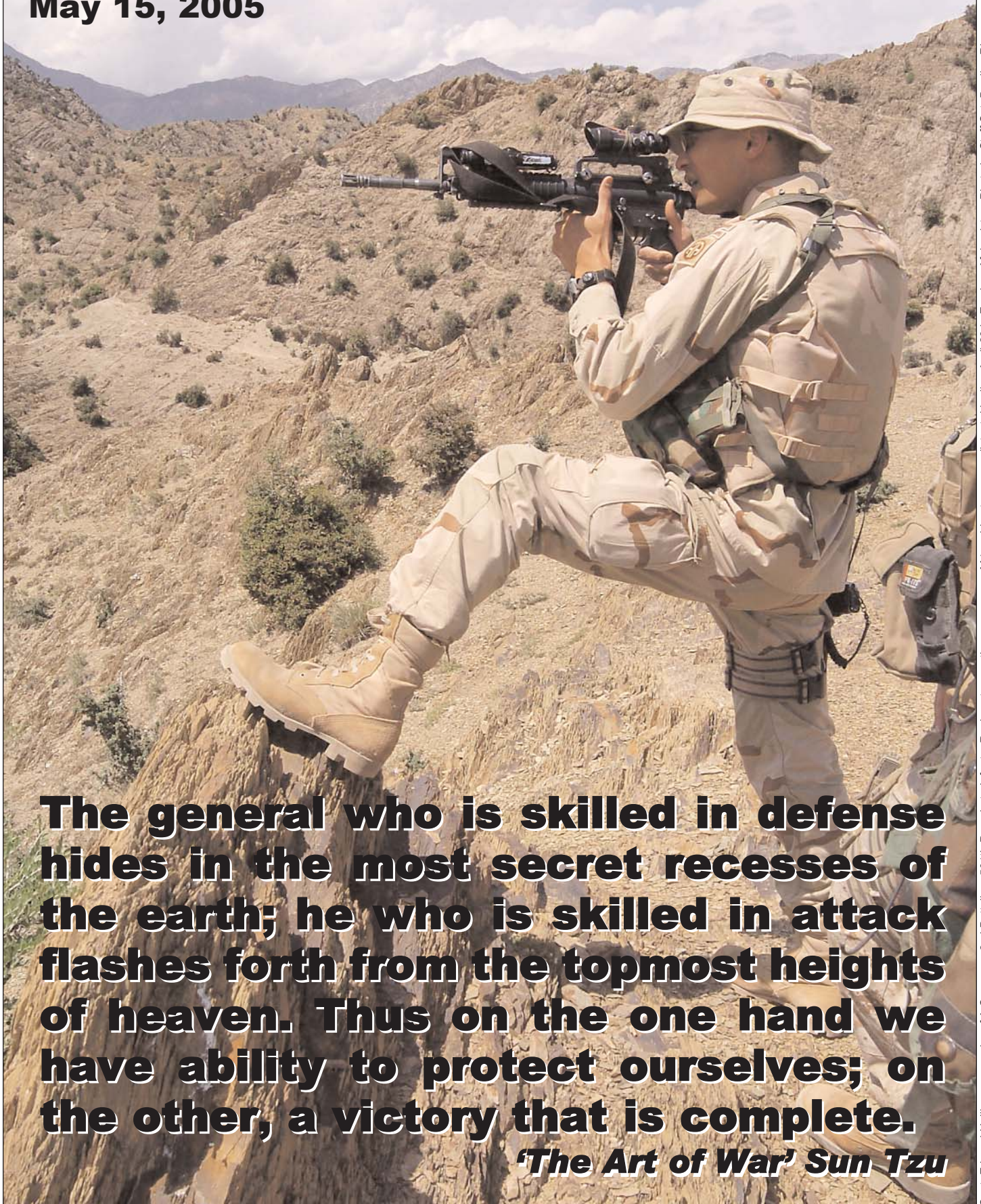
Capt. Catie Hague



One of the Flying Tigers' A-10s lands at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Freedom Watch

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The general who is skilled in defense hides in the most secret recesses of the earth; he who is skilled in attack flashes forth from the topmost heights of heaven. Thus on the one hand we have ability to protect ourselves; on the other, a victory that is complete.

'The Art of War' Sun Tzu